

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00098 191950Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /059 W
-----200552Z 101445 /14

R 191648Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6951
INFO COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0098

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IC
SUBJECT: IP-AFFILIATED PAPER URGES RESIGNATION OF PROGRESSIVE
MINISTERS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0086 (DTG 181443 JAN 77) NOTAL

1. INDEPENDENCE PARTY-AFFILIATED DAILY VISIR HAS ISSUED
STRONGEST PUBLIC DENUNCIATION YET OF ALLEGED PROGRESSIVE
PARTY ABUSES OF POWER FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS THAT FONMIN
EINAR AGUSTSSON IMPROPERLY INTERVENED IN CONTROVERSIAL
CRIMINAL CASE (REFTEL). IN JANUARY 18 EDITORIAL, VISIR
INSISTS THAT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN JUDICIAL SYSTEM HAS
BECOME INTOLERABLE AND CAN ONLY BE CORRECTED BY CABINET
SHAKEUP. PAPER GOES ON TO RECOMMEND REMOVAL OF BOTH
AGUSTSSON AND JUSTICEMIN OLAFUR JOHANNESSON, WARNING
THAT IF MINISTERIAL CHANGES ARE NOT MADE, GOVERNMENT
AS WHOLE (READ INDEPENDENCE PARTY) WILL BE HELD
RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSEQUENCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00098 191950Z

2. VISIR IS RESPECTED MASS CIRCULATION
(20,500) AFTERNOON DAILY WITH CLOSE TIES TO CERTAIN
ELEMENTS OF IP. PAPER, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SPEAK -- OR
PROFESS TO SPEAK -- AUTHORITATIVELY FOR PARTY.

3. IN REBUTTAL TO VISIR DEMAND, PROGRESSIVE PARTY

DAILY TIMINN CARRIED FRONT-PAGE INTERVIEW WITH PRIME-MIN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON JANUARY 19 IN WHICH PRIMEMIN IS CITED AS EXPRESSING FULLEST CONFIDENCE IN MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES AND COMPLETE DISAGREEMENT WITH VISIR. HOWEVER, IMPACT OF HALLGRIMSSON'S REMARKS ARE SOMEWHAT DILUTED BY FACT THAT THEY APPEAR ONLY IN PP PRESS AND IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUERY. LEADING IP NEWSPAPER MORGUNBLADID, WHICH IS OFFICIAL VOICE OF PARTY AND OF HALLGRIMSSON WING IN PARTICULAR, CARRIED NO MENTION OF RESIGNATION DEBATE THIS MORNING AND, IN FACT, HAS AVOIDED ANY COMMENT ON FONMIN'S AND PP'S LATEST DIFFICULTIES.

3. COMMENT: CHARGES AGAINST AGUSTSSON HAVE RAISED FUROR HERE OVER ALLEGED PP ABUSES TO NEW PEAK AND AT SAME TIME HAVE FOCUSED NEW AND ACUTELY EMBARRASSING ATTENTION ON BOTH AGUSTSSON AND JOHANNESSON PERSONALLY. ON OTHER HAND, THERE IS NO TRADITION IN ICELANDIC POLITICS FOR RESIGNATION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS MERELY FOR BEING UNDER A CLOUD AND, AT THIS POINT, IT APPEARS MORE LIKELY THAT AGUSTSSON AND JOHANNESSON WILL STAND AND FIGHT RATHER THAN QUIT. IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT CONTRATEMPES, THEREFORE, LIES MAINLY IN ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR COALITION UNITY. VISIR EDITORIAL YESTERDAY EFFECTIVELY SPOTLIGHTS WHAT WAS OPEN SECRET ALREADY (REYKJAVIK 0042) -- DEEPENING CONCERN IN INDEPENDENCE PARTY OVER APPARENT INDISCRETIONS OF ITS GOVERNMENT PARTNER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 REYKJA 00098 191950Z

4. AS INTERESTING ASIDE, PEOPLES ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN REPORTED VISIR RESIGNATION DEMAND ON ITS FRONT PAGE TODAY BUT WITHOUT OFFERING ANY COMMENT. PA IS OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING EMBARRASSMENT WHICH COALITION IS SUFFERING BUT FROM OUTSET HAS TAKEN CARE NOT TO KICK PROGRESSIVES WHILE THEY ARE DOWN AND THEREBY JEOPARDIZE CHANCES OF ANOTHER COALITION BETWEEN PA AND PP IN NEAR FUTURE.
BLAKE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, POLITICAL STABILITY, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977REYKJA00098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770021-0025
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770137/aaaabfzf.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7de2a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 REYKJAVIK 86
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3558166
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IP-AFFILIATED PAPER URGES RESIGNATION OF PROGRESSIVE MINISTERS
TAGS: PINT, IC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7de2a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009